

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Cancel)

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A prismatic battery case according to claim 1, comprising:

substantially rectangular shorter-side plates;
longer-side plates connecting the shorter side plates along side edges; and
a bottom plate connecting bottom edges of said shorter-side plates and said
longer-side plates;

wherein the shorter-side plates are made larger in thickness than the longer-side plates such that ~~wherein, if it is assumed that a thickness of the shorter-side plate (3a) plates is A, that a thickness of the longer-side plate plates [[(3b)]] is B, and that a thickness of [[a]] the bottom plate [[(3c)]] is C, a relationship among them is given as:~~

$B = \alpha A$ ($0.6 < \alpha < 1.0$), and

$A = \beta C$ ($0.2 < \beta < 0.8$).

3. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the prismatic battery case is made of a carbon steel for use in cold rolling that is composed principally of iron and contains carbon in an amount of 0.1 wt % or less.

4. (Original) The prismatic battery case according to claim 3, wherein the carbon steel contains at least one of titanium and niobium in an amount of 0.1 wt % or less.

5. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case according to any one of claims [[1]] 2 to 4, wherein the prismatic battery case is processed such that an HV value, which represents Vickers hardness, of the processed side plate is 1.5 times or above larger than an HV value of an unprocessed metal material composed principally of iron.

6. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the prismatic battery case is made of aluminum or aluminum alloy.

7. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case according to any one of claims [[1]] to 4 and 6, wherein ~~, in the side plates (3a and 3b), a thickness of~~

part around a portion upper edges of the longer-side plates and the shorter-side plates which define an opening to be sealed when the battery is constructed [[is]] are made at least 10 % or more larger than a thickness of other part of the side plates (3a and 3b) adjacent lower portions of the longer-side plates and the shorter-side plates.

8. (Currently Amended) A prismatic battery comprising:
an element for electromotive force [[(40)]]; and
the prismatic battery case [[(3)]] set forth in any one of claims [[1]] 2 to 4 and 6, the battery case being for accommodating the element for electromotive force [[(40)]].

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently Amended) A prismatic battery case manufacturing method comprising:
a first process step for forming a first intermediate cup element [[(1)]] having a substantially elliptic cross section by subjecting a battery case material [[(8)]] punched into a predetermined shape to deep drawing;

a second process step for forming a second intermediate cup element [[(2)]] having a substantially elliptic cross section which is smaller in minor-axis-diameter to major-axis-diameter ratio than the cross section of the first intermediate cup element [[(1)]] by subjecting the first intermediate cup element [[(1)]] to redrawing successively in a plural stages; and

a third process step for forming a prismatic battery case [[(3)]] having a substantially rectangular cross section in which a shorter-side plate [[(3a)]] is made larger in thickness than a longer-side plate [[(3b)]] by subjecting the second intermediate cup element [[(2)]] to DI processing, wherein drawing and ironing are performed successively at a time.

11. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case manufacturing method according to claim 10, wherein, at least in a first redrawing at the second process step, with use of a drawing die ~~(20A and 20B)~~ having a substantially elliptic drawing hole ~~(20a and 20b)~~ whose major-axis-diameter is 5 to 20 % longer than a major-axis-diameter of the first intermediate cup element [[(1)]], the first intermediate cup element [[(1)]] is given a substantially elliptic cross section which is smaller in minor-axis-diameter to major-axis-diameter ratio than the cross section of the first intermediate cup element [[(1)]] by performing drawing in such a way

that only the dimension in a minor-axis-diameter direction is reduced without restricting the dimension in a major-axis-diameter direction.

12. (Currently Amended) The prismatic battery case manufacturing method according to any one of claims [[9 to]] 10 and 11, wherein the battery case material [[(8)]] is punched into a substantially oval shape at the first process step.

13. (Cancel)